GENENT.48CP1C1 PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	:	Klein et al.	) Group Art Unit Unknown
Appl. No.	:	Unknown (Continuation of U.S. No. 08/860,370, filed on June 6, 1997)	) I hereby certify that this correspondence and all marked attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on
Filed	:	Filed Herewith	) November 2, 2001 (Date)
For	:	USES OF GDNF AND GDNF RECEPTOR	) Ginger R. Dreger, Reg. No. 33,055
Examiner	:	Unknown	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

The present Preliminary Amendment is filed concurrently with the filing of a continuation application of application Serial No. 08/860,370 filed on June 6, 1997.

Kindly amend this application in the following aspects:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 1.

Please add the following claims:

--41. An isolated GDNFRα polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 95% identity to the amino acid sequence as set out between amino acids Asp25 and Ser468 of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein said polypeptide is capable of binding GDNF and activating Ret tyrosine kinase.

42. The isolated polypeptide of claim 41 comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 99% identity to the amino acid sequence as set out between amino acids Asp25 and Ser468 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

43. The isolated polypeptide of claim 41 comprising the GDNFRα extracellular domain sequence as set out between amino acids Asp25 and Gly427 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

44. A chimeric polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 95% identity to the amino acid sequence as set out between amino acids Asp25 and Ser468 of SEQ ID NO: 2, fused, at its C-terminus to the N-terminus of an immmunoglobulin heavy chain constant domain sequence, wherein said chimeric polypeptide is capable of binding GDNF and activating Ret tyrosine kinase.

45. The chimeric polypeptide of claim 44 wherein said amino acid sequence has at least 99% identity to the amino acid sequence as set out between amino acids Asp25 and Ser468 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

46. The chimeric polypeptide of claim 44 wherein said amino acid sequence comprises the GDNFRα extracellular domain sequence as set out between amino acids Asp25 and Gly427 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

47. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a GDNFRα polypeptide of any one of claims 41 to 43.

48. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a chimeric polypeptide of any one of claims 44 to 46.

49. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 47 further comprising a promoter operably linked to the nucleic acid molecule.

50. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 48 further comprising a promoter operably linked to the nucleic acid molecule.

51. An expression vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 48 operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.

52. An expression vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 49 operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.

53. An isolated host cell comprising the vector of claim 51.

54. An isolated host cell comprising the vector of claim 52.

55. A method of producing a GDNFRα polypeptide comprising culturing the isolated host cell of claim 53 under conditions such that said polypeptide is expressed.

56. A method of producing a chimeric polypeptide comprising culturing the isolated host cell of claim 54 under conditions such that said polypeptide is expressed.

57. The method of claim 55 further comprising the step of recovering the GDNFRα polypeptide from the host cell culture.

58. The method of claim 56 further comprising the step of recovering the chimeric polypeptide from the host cell culture.

59. A composition comprising the GDNFRα polypeptide of claim 41 and a physiologically acceptable carrier.

60. A composition comprising the chimeric polypeptide of claim 44 and a physiologically acceptable carrier.--

Remarks

The foregoing claims 41 to 60 are fully supported by the specification as originally filed, for example, at page 8, lines 5 to 23; page 8, lines 24 to 29; page 8, line 38 - page 9, line 5; page 9, lines 24 to 29; page 10, lines 18 to 25; page 10, lines 26 to 30; page 10, lines 31 to 39; claim 12, line 32 - page 13, line 2; page 29, line 34 - page 31, line 39.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: November 2, 2001

By: _____

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